

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (cancelled).

Claim 11 (currently amended): A chewing gum composition comprising:

- (a) a water-insoluble base component;
- (b) a water-soluble component; and at least one of (c) and (d), wherein,
- (c) comprises an extract of a plant selected from the group consisting of *Ginkgo biloba*, *Camellia sinensis*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Vitis vitifera*, *Olea europensis*, *Tri-folium* *Trifolium* *pratense*, *Salix (alba)*, *Harpagophytum procumbens* and mixtures thereof and
- ~~---(d)--- comprises a plant-derived active principle selected from the group consisting of catechols, flavonoids, quercitrins, resveratrols, flavonoid glycosides, isoflavones, isoflavone glycosides, iridoid glycosides, harpagosides, harpagides, proambides, anthocyanosides, salicylates and mixtures thereof.~~

Claim 12 (previously presented): The composition as claimed in claim 11 comprising as component (a) a water-insoluble component selected from the group consisting of natural or synthetic elastomers, resins, fats and oils, plasticizers, fillers, softeners, dyes, waxes and mixtures thereof.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The composition as claimed in claim 11 comprising component (a) in a quantity of 5 to 95% by weight.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The composition as claimed in claim 11 comprising as

component (b) a water-soluble component selected from the group consisting of softeners, sweeteners, fillers, flavors, flavor enhancers, emulsifiers, dyes, acidifying agents, antioxidants and mixtures thereof.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The composition as claimed in claim 11 comprising component (b) in a quantity of 5 to 95% by weight.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The composition as claimed in claim 11 comprising as component (c) microcapsules with mean diameters of 0.0001 to 5 mm which comprise a membrane and a matrix containing the plant extracts ~~and/or the plant-derived active principles and~~ which are produced by a process comprising a process selected from the group consisting of:

(a)

- (a1) preparing a matrix comprising gel formers, chitosans and active-principles plant extract,
- (a2) optionally dispersing the matrix in an oil phase,
- (a3) treating the dispersed matrix with an aqueous solution comprising anionic polymers; and
- (a4) optionally removing the oil phase ,

(b)

- (b1) preparing a matrix comprising gel formers, anionic polymers and active principles plant extract,
- (b2) optionally dispersing the matrix in an oil phase,
- (b3) treating the dispersed matrix with an aqueous chitosan solution, and [[d]]
- (b4) optionally removing the oil phase,

(c)

(c1) processing an aqueous ~~active-principle~~ plant extract preparation with oil components in the presence of emulsifiers to form an o/w emulsion.

- (c2) treating the emulsion obtained with an ~~aqueous~~ aqueous solution comprising polymers, to form a matrix[[]],
- (c3) contacting the matrix with an aqueous chitosan solution and
- (c4) removing the encapsulated product, thus obtained, from the aqueous phase.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The composition as claimed in claim 11 which composition contains component (c) in a quantity of 0.1 to 10% by weight.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The composition as claimed in claim 11 comprising:

- (a) 5 to 49% by weight water-insoluble base component,
- (b) 5 to 49% by weight water-soluble component and
- (c) 2 to 10% by weight of optionally encapsulated plant extracts ~~and/or their active principles,~~

with the proviso that the quantities shown add up to 100% by weight.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The composition as claimed in claim 12 comprising component (a) in a quantity of 5 to 95% by weight.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The composition as claimed in claim 19 comprising as component (b) a water-soluble component selected from the group consisting of softeners, sweeteners, fillers, flavors, flavor enhancers, emulsifiers, dyes, acidifying agents, antioxidants and mixtures thereof.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The composition as claimed in claim 20 comprising component (b) in a quantity of 5 to 95% by weight.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The composition as claimed in claim 21 comprising as component (c) microcapsules with mean diameters of 0.0001 to 5 mm which comprise a

membrane and a matrix containing the plant extracts ~~and/or the plant-derived active principles~~ and which are produced by a process comprising a process selected from the group consisting of:

- (a)
 - (a1) preparing a matrix comprising gel formers, chitosans and ~~active principles~~ plant extract,
 - (a2) optionally dispersing the matrix in an oil phase,
 - (a3) treating the dispersed matrix with an aqueous solution comprising anionic polymers; and
 - (a4) optionally removing the oil phase ,
- (b)
 - (b1) preparing a matrix comprising gel formers, anionic polymers and ~~active principles~~ plant extract,
 - (b2) optionally dispersing the matrix in an oil phase,
 - (b3) treating the dispersed matrix with an aqueous chitosan solution, and [[d]]
 - (b4) optionally removing the oil phase,
- (c)
 - (c1) processing an aqueous ~~active-principle~~ plant extract preparation with oil components in the presence of emulsifiers to form an o/w emulsion,
 - (c2) treating the emulsion obtained with an aqueous solution comprising polymers, to form a matrix.,
 - (c3) contacting the matrix with an aqueous chitosan solution and
 - (c4) removing the encapsulated product, thus obtained, from the aqueous phase.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The composition as claimed in claim 22 which composition contains component (c) in a quantity of 0.1 to 10% by weight.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The composition as claimed in claim 23 comprising:

- (a) 5 to 49% by weight water-insoluble base component,
- (b) 5 to 49% by weight water-soluble component and
- (c) 2 to 10% by weight of optionally encapsulated plant extracts ~~and/or their active principles,~~

with the proviso that the quantities shown add up to 100% by weight.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The chewing gum composition of claim 11, wherein, the water-insoluble base component comprises from 10% to 50% by weight of the composition.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The chewing gum composition of claim 25, wherein, the water-soluble component comprises from 20% to 80% by weight of the composition.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The composition of claim 16, wherein, the microcapsules have a mean diameter of from 0.001 mm to 0.5 mm.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The composition of claim 27, wherein, the microcapsules have a mean diameter of from 0.005 mm to 0.1 mm.

Claim 29 (new): The composition of claim 11 wherein, (c) comprises an optionally encapsulated extract of *Trifolium pratense*.